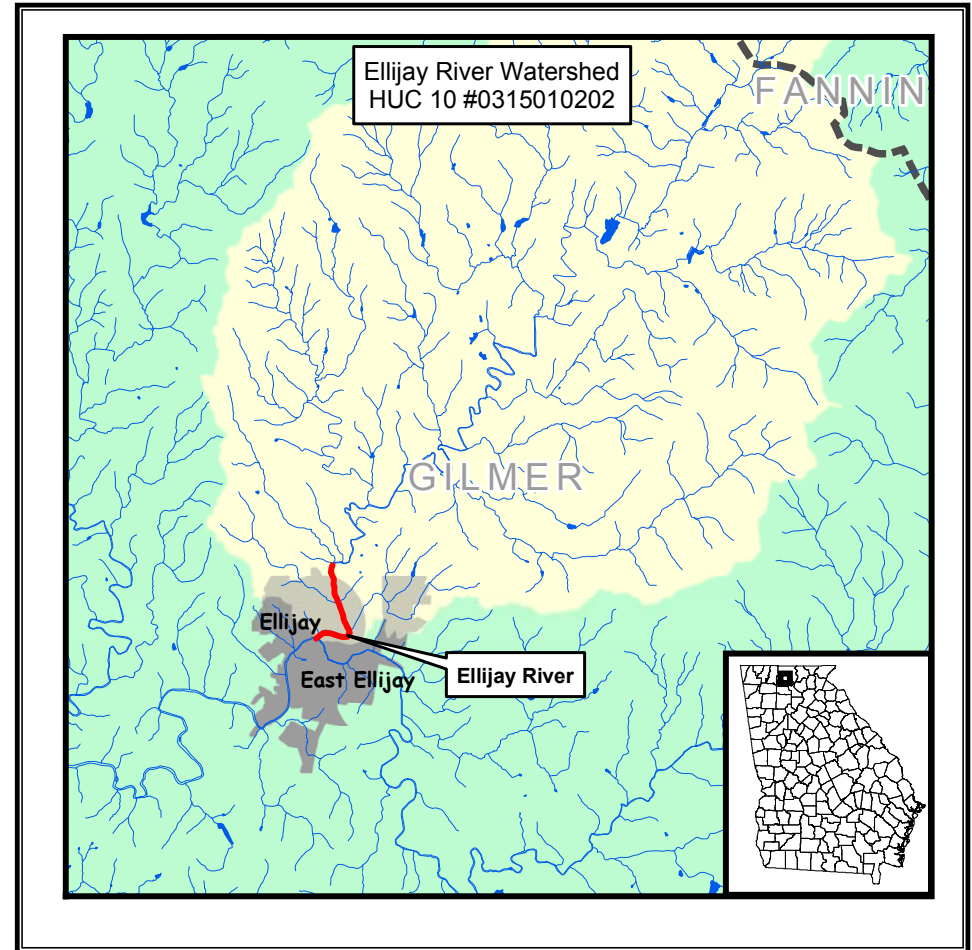


**STATE OF GEORGIA
TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**ELLIJAY RIVER
(Fecal Coliform)
Revision 01: April 28, 2006**

**Prepared by
The Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division
Atlanta, GA**

TMDL Implementation Plans are platforms for establishing a suggested course of actions to restore impaired water bodies. They are intended to be a continuing process, subject to revision as new conditions and information warrant. Procedures will be developed to track and evaluate implementation of management practices and activities identified in the plans. Once restored, these will be continued to maintain the water bodies. The overall Plan goal is to define a set of actions that will help achieve water quality standards in the state of Georgia. This Plan was originally prepared as an implementation inventory in 2001 by the North Georgia RDC using a Section 604(b) Grant. In this revision (Revision 01) TMDL load allocation information has been updated by EPD to reflect the approved TMDL.



| Impaired Waterbody* | Impaired Stream Location | River Basin | Miles/Area Impacted | Partially Supporting/ Not Supporting |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---|
| Ellijay River | Upstream Coosawattee River | Coosa | 2 | Partially Supporting |

STATE OF GEORGIA

TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR:

Ellijay River
(STREAM)**Fecal Coliform**
(PARAMETER)RIVER BASIN: **Coosa**

PLAN DATE: September 30, 2001

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|--------|-----|
| Prepared by: North Georgia Regional Development Center Address: 503 W. Waugh Street City: Dalton State: Georgia Zip: 30720 e-mail: dceds@ngrdc.org Date Submitted to EPD: September 15, 2001 | | Or Prepared By: Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ e-mail: _____ Date Submitted to EPD: _____ | | | |
| General Information Obtain this information from the TMDL document or other information. When completed, this document will be a self-contained report independent of the TMDL document. | | Significant Stakeholders Identify local governments, agricultural organizations or significant land holders, commercial forestry organizations, businesses and industries, and local organizations including environmental groups with a major interest in this water body. | | | |
| TMDL ID (to be entered by EPD) | CSA0000012 | Name/Organization | SEE ATTACHED LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS IN APPENDIX A | | |
| Water body name | Ellijay River | Address | | | |
| HUC basin name | Coosawattee | City | | State | Zip |
| HUC number | 0315010202 | Phone | | e-mail | |
| Primary county | Gilmer | Name/Organization | | | |
| Secondary county | Fannin | Address | | | |
| Primary RDC | North Georgia RDC | City | | State | Zip |
| Secondary RDC | None | Phone | | e-mail | |
| Water body location | Upstream Coosawattee River | Name/Organization | | | |
| | Creek | Address | | | |
| Miles or area impacted | 2 | City | | State | Zip |
| Parameter addressed in plan | Fecal Coliform | Phone | | e-mail | |
| Water use classification | Fishing | Name/Organization | | | |
| Degree of impairment | Partially supporting in 2004 | Address | | | |
| | | City | | State | Zip |
| Date TMDL approved by EPD | January 2004 | Phone | | e-mail | |
| Impairment due to | | Name/Organization | | | |
| | Nonpoint sources | Address | | | |
| | | City | | State | Zip |
| Point source-Form A; Nonpoint source-Form B; Both-Form A+B+C | | Phone | | e-mail | |

If more, add to comments on last page.

FORM B

SUMMARY OF ALLOCATION MODEL RESULTS FROM TMDL DOCUMENT (existing load, target TMDL, and needed reduction) TMDL NOT YET DETERMINED FOR FECAL COLIFORM IN ELLIJAY RIVER

| EXISTING LOAD | TARGET TMDL | NEEDED REDUCTION |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 6.01E+13 Counts/30 days | 1.11E+13 Counts/30 days | 82% |
| | | |

I. IDENTIFY **NONPOINT SOURCE** CATEGORIES AND SUBCATEGORIES OR INDIVIDUAL SOURCES WHICH MUST BE CONTROLLED TO IMPLEMENT LOAD ALLOCATIONS:

List major nonpoint sources contributing to impairment including those identified in TMDL document.

| SOURCE | DESCRIPTION OF CONTRIBUTION TO IMPAIRMENT | RECOMMENDED LOAD REDUCTION (FROM TMDL) |
|---|--|--|
| Urban pervious/impervious (stormwater runoff) | Urban development (Cities of Ellijay and East Ellijay) is contributing increased stormwater runoff within the watershed. | Not Specific to this Source |
| Sanitary/storm sewer | Leakage along sewer lines | Not Specific to this Source |
| Agriculture | There are agricultural activities, including poultry producers, and cattle operations, which result in improper spreading of animal manure near streams, runoff from stored manure, and cattle in streams. Farm ponds on streams leading to Ellijay River result in diminished flows – lower velocity, higher fecal content. | Not Specific to this Source |
| Forestry | Forest harvest activities increase runoff from cleared land near streams in the watershed. | Not Specific to this Source |
| Failed or poorly managed on-site sewage systems | Improperly sited and poorly maintained on-site sewage management systems are allowing untreated waste to enter ground water or streams; there is evidence of straight pipes to the river from failed systems; septic waste could be dumped illegally after septic tanks are pumped out (Water and Sewer Authority no longer accepts such waste | Not Specific to this Source |
| | | |
| | | |

II. DESCRIBE ANY REGULATORY OR VOLUNTARY ACTIONS INCLUDING MANAGEMENT MEASURES OR OTHER CONTROLS BY GOVERNMENTS OR INDIVIDUALS THAT SPECIFICALLY APPLY TO THE POLLUTANT AND THE WATERBODY FOR WHICH THE TMDL WAS WRITTEN, THAT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE DELIVERY MECHANISMS, AND THAT WILL HELP ACHIEVE THE LOAD ALLOCATIONS IN THE TMDL:

See the attachment for more instructions.

Existing or required regulatory actions

| RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY | NAME OF REGULATION/ORDINANCE | DESCRIPTION | ENACTED OR PROJECTED DATE (mm/yy) | STATUS |
|--|---|---|--|--------------------|
| Gilmer County | Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance | Rules and regulations for construction site stabilization | Latest amendments adopted 2001 | Active |
| Gilmer County | Land Development Review Process | Ensures compliance with building codes, subdivision regulations and soil erosion and sediment control, and Environmental Protection Regulations | 1996 | Active |
| Cities of Ellijay and East Ellijay | Land Development Review Process | Ensures compliance with building codes, subdivision regulations, Zoning Ordinance soil erosion and sediment control, and Environmental Protection Regulations | 1996 | Active |
| Gilmer County, Cities of Ellijay and East Ellijay | Environmental Conservation/Protection Regulations | DNR recommended minimum standards for Water Supply Watershed Protection, Wetland Protection and Steep Slope Protection | February, 2001 for County; June, 2001 for cities | Active |
| Gilmer County Board of Health, Environmental Health Services | Rules and regulations for on-site wastewater management | Regulates through permits and inspections the installation and operation of all on-site wastewater management systems. | Latest amendments adopted | Active |
| North Georgia Regional Development Center | Source Water Assessment | Contaminant inventory and intake susceptibility analysis | November 2003 | In progress |
| Georgia EPD | Coosa River Basin Plan 1998 | Program to protect, enhance, and restore the waters of the Coosa Basin by monitoring, regulating, allocating, and managing land uses in the river basin | 1998 | Done every 5 years |
| Georgia EPD | Stormwater General Permit | A General Permit for construction activities which disturb 5 acres or greater; includes site stabilization plans and comprehensive monitoring/reporting | August 2000 | Active |

Existing voluntary actions

| RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY | NAME OF ACTION | DESCRIPTION | ENACTED OR PROJECTED DATE (mm/yy) | STATUS |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Natural Resources Conservation Service/Farm Services Agency (USDA) | Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) | Technical, educational and financial assistance for farmers to develop environmentally beneficial land use management (ie Nutrient management plans, fencing livestock from streams) | 1997 | Yearly sign-up for agricultural producers (\$300,000 for 2001) |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service/Farm Services Agency (USDA) | Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) | Encourages farmers to convert highly erodable acreage to filter strips and riparian buffers to improve water quality and habitat | 1985 | Multi year contracts |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service | Wetland Reserve Program | Wetland restoration program | 1985 | Little activity in NW GA |
| Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development Center | EPA 319 Grants | Finance ecosystem based technical assistance in Coosawattee Watershed (ie streambank stabilization, poultry litter storage/ composting, alternative on-site sewage systems, pasture improvements, water recreational improvements) | | Steady activity in watershed since |
| Georgia Forestwatch | Aquatic research | Work with scientists on endemic crayfish surveys of National Forest streams | | Ongoing |
| Southeast Aquatic Research Center | Aquatic research | Provides data on health of aquatic species in watershed, especially those that are endangered | | Ongoing sampling in Coosa Basin |
| Gilmer/Ellijay Water and Sewer Authority | Sewer Rehabilitation Program | To increase the reliability of the collection system and reduce potential overflows | 1994 | In progress |
| University of Georgia | Institute of Ecology | Collects data on health of aquatic species in Coosawattee Watershed | | Ongoing |
| Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission | Training programs, etc | Provides training and technical assistance on erosion and sediment controls, BMP education, forestry complaint resolution, BMP monitoring | January 1999 (updated manual) | |

Additional recommended regulatory or other measures which should be implemented to reduce the loads of the TMDL parameter

| ENTITY/ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE | NAME OF PROPOSED REGULATION/ORDINANCE/ OTHER | DESCRIPTION | ENACTED OR PROJECTED DATE (mm/yy) | STATUS |
|--|---|---|--|---------------|
| Gilmer/Ellijay Water and Sewer Authority | waste composting facility | Gilmer/Ellijay Water and Sewer Authority proposes to construct a composting facility, which would accept and compost municipal sewage sludge, septic tank wastes, and poultry wastes | January, 2003 | |
| Gilmer/Ellijay Water and Sewer Authority | Expansion of sewer infrastructure | Water and Sewer Authority has approved a Capital Improvements Plan to extend public sewer services to a larger area within the vicinity of the Ellijay/East Ellijay | July, 2003 | |
| Gilmer County | Watershed Assessment | A requirement for areas proposed for public sewer service expansion. On-going water quality monitoring to be undertaken with modeling assessing future development impacts on water quality in the watershed. | January, 2004 | |
| Georgia EPD | Stormwater runoff study | Evaluation of polluted stormwater runoff to identify urban contributions of fecal coliform | January, 2003 | |
| Cities of Ellijay and East Ellijay | Stormwater Management Regulations | Require the use of physical structures such as ponds or constructed wetlands to treat runoff prior to entering stream. | January, 2004 | |
| Gilmer County Adopt-a-Stream | EPA 319 Grants | Increase public awareness of State's non-point source pollution and water quality issues; encourage partnerships, help citizens collect water quality data | January, 2003 | |
| Gilmer County | Green space Plan | A plan to protect 20% of the natural greenspace in Gilmer County by targeting preservation of natural resources, including flood plains, steep slopes and other natural areas through conservation easements. | December, 2001 | |
| Chattowah Open Land Trust | | Assist landowners with conservation easements with emphasis on implementing greenway corridors as proposed in County Green Space Plan | January, 2003 | |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service/Farm Services | Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) | Increase awareness and training activity in the Ellijay Creek watershed to encourage farmers to convert highly erodable acreage to filter strips and riparian | January, 2003 | |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------|--|
| Agency (USDA) | | buffers to improve water quality and habitat . | | |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service/Farm Services Agency (USDA) | Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) | Increase awareness, technical, and financial assistance for farmers to develop environmentally beneficial land use management (ie Nutrient management plans, fencing livestock from streams) in the Ellijay River watershed. | January, 2003 | |
| Gilmer County Board of Health | Public education regarding maintenance of on-site waste management systems. | Increase public awareness regarding proper maintenance of on-site sewage systems; consider establishing a publicly operated on-site sewage management entity with responsibility for education and training, system inspection, and repairs. | January, 2003 | |

III. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTING MANAGEMENT MEASURES OR OTHER CONTROL ACTIONS:

These must be implemented as expeditiously as practicable within five years of when the implementation plan is accepted by EPD.

| IMPLEMENTATION ACTION | YEAR 1 | YEAR 2 | YEAR 3 | YEAR 4 | YEAR 5 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Form stakeholders group | X | | | | |
| Organize implementation work with stakeholders and local officials to identify remedial measures and potential funding sources | X | | | | |
| Identify sources of TMDL parameter | | X* | | | |
| Develop management programs to control runoff including identification and implementation of BMPs (Phase I): | | | | | |
| Agriculture | X** | X | X | X | X |
| Forestry | X** | X | X | X | X |
| Urban | X* | X | X | X | X |
| Mining | NA | | | | |
| Organize and implement education and outreach programs | X | | | | |
| Detect and eliminate illicit discharges | X | X | X | X | X |
| Evaluate additional management controls needed | X | X | X | X | X |
| Monitor and evaluate results | X | X | X | X | X |
| Reassess TMDL allocations | | | X | | |
| Provide periodic status reports on implementation of remedial activities | X | X | X | X | X |
| If needed, begin process for Phase II (next 5 years) and subsequent phases | | | | | X |

*After completion of a full year of sampling data preliminary identification of sources of fecal coliform bacteria will be made

** Programs and BMPs will be implemented as possible throughout the 5 year period

IV. PROJECTED ATTAINMENT DATE AND BASIS FOR THAT PROJECTION:

The projected attainment date is 10 years from acceptance of the implementation plan by EPD.

V. MEASURABLE MILESTONES:

- Number of management controls and activities already implemented _____
- Number of management controls and activities proposed in five-year work program _____
- Number of management controls and activities actually implemented in five-year work period _____ (to be completed after 5 years)
- Stream sampled to identify areas of concern See monitoring plan
- Other _____
- Other _____

VI. MONITORING PLAN:

Monitoring data that placed stream on 303(d) list will be provided if requested.

Describe **previous or current** sampling activities or other surveys to detect sources or to measure effectiveness of management measures or other controls.

| ORGANIZATION | TIME FRAME | PARAMETERS | PURPOSE | STATUS |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------------|--|----------|
| NPDES Program | | Fecal coliform | Sewage spills | |
| SARI mollusk and snail survey | | | Population and diversity study of aquatic organisms in Coosa Basin | Underway |
| UGA | | | Determine effects of farm/ornamental ponds on hydrology and stream stability | Underway |
| | | | | |

Describe any planned or proposed sampling activities or other surveys. (Scheduled EPD sampling can be found in the Basin Planning document.)

| ORGANIZATION | TIME FRAME | PARAMETERS | PURPOSE | STATUS |
|--------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|--------|
| EPD | Every 5 years | various | River basin planning | 2003 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Gilmer/Ellijay Water and Sewer Authority | Until problem resolved; samples should represent seasonal differences | Fecal coliform | To monitor levels of fecal coliform and to determine success of plan implementation | |
| Gilmer Adopt-a-Stream | On-going | Fecal Coliform; Obtain training from Alabama Waterwatch for approved EPA fecal coliform monitoring program; | supplement/coordinate with Gilmer/Ellijay W&S Authority | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

VII. CRITERIA TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IS BEING MADE:

- % concentration or load change (monitoring program) – **Goal of** **% reduction in loading and/or resultant concentrations from** **land uses**
- Categorical change in classification of the stream (delisting the stream is the goal) -
- Regulatory controls or activities installed (ordinances, laws) – **Monitor the number of voluntary and regulatory programs implemented during the 5 year program**
- Best management practices installed (agricultural, forestry, urban) – **Ensure that BMP's are being implemented in the Ellijay River drainage basin**

COMMENTS

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